

Lackland story continued



Lt. Stankovich talks with a new trainee during lunch about the challenges of BMT.

of armed conflict and chemical warfare while living at Torch Air Base, a simulated forward deployed air base.

Some Ohio delegates were able to talk with trainees during their lunch period about their experiences at BMT.

"They are very tired," said 1Lt. Marjory Stankovich, Ohio ANG director of personnel, "They said the training seems very real. It is good to see that BMT is preparing them for real world challenges, things we face everyday."

The final day of training was spent at graduations. With the temperature hovering at 33 degrees, more than 1400 airmen officially became members of the United States Air Force during an inspiring parade and graduation ceremony. After that graduation, the Ohio delegation went back to warrior week to witness their concluding ceremony. At the end of warrior week, trainees become airmen and are given the coveted airmen's coin.

Master Sgt. April Roberts, 179th AW recruiter, said the graduation was incredibly moving. "These kids had tears running down their eyes while they stood at attention. Warrior week is very demanding and you could physically see how proud they were of their accomplishments."

For 80 Ohio Air National Guardsmen and 1400 new airmen, the memories of that week of training will be anything but basic.

Airman's Run begins at BMT

**By: Wayne Bryant
37th Training Wing Public Affairs**

Airmen in their final week of basic training, accompanied by their military training instructors and commanders, began a new tradition this month called the Airman's Run.

The inaugural run took place on Jan. 9, with sixth-week airmen from all basic training squadrons running a 2.3-mile formation run past the BMT Reception Center to the cheers of family members.

The primary running route starts and finishes at the 737th Training Group headquarters, but traverses the majority of the west side of the base centered around Hughes Avenue.

"We expect our graduating airmen to be proud, fit and mission ready," said Col. Sharon Dunbar, 737th TRG commander. "The Airman's Run reinforces to graduating airmen, as well as to their family, the importance our Air Force places on physical fitness, teamwork and unit pride. With military training instructors, first sergeants and commanders running by their side, these airmen know that physical conditioning and esprit de corps don't end with basic training."

Airmen will run the course every Thursday at 10 a.m., weather permitting.

Throughout the run, airmen will echo "jodies," traditional military cadences that help keep flights in step and make the run even more spirited. The airmen also circle the basic training reception center where friends and family members line up to cheer them on.

The runners will stay off Lackland's main roads.

During winter months, the schedule calls for the run to take place at 10 a.m. When BMT shifts to a summer schedule the run will be moved to earlier in the day.

Base bulletin board

To hear the base bulletin board message dial on base ext. 520.

You will hear "You have reached the base bulletin board at the Ohio Air National Guard - the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield, Ohio."

----- (current message will be inserted here) -----

"Call this number for updated information such as unit training assembly changes, weather related changes, etc. Thank you."

Loadmaster positions available at unit

The 179th is looking for a few good men and women to fill the positions of loadmaster. Here are some of the prerequisites for a loadmaster:

1. Be a U.S. citizen
2. Must be able to pass a Class III Flight Physical, and aerospace physiological training (altitude chamber)
3. Be a high school graduate with an ASVAB minimum general aptitude score of 55
4. Ability to read, write and speak English
5. Must be able to get a secret security clearance
6. Total training time is approximately one year
7. Prior service of at least three years

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting career field or want to apply for a vacancy, have a resume sent to Chief Barretta.